

Message Text

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12/45
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
----- 013039

R 011619Z NOV 73E
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5244
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 12734

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR REFERENCE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, EC, NATO
SUBJECT: STOESSEL CONVERSATION WITH FCO DEPUTY UNDER
SECRETARY BRIMELOW

REF: LONDON 12729

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL, ACCOMPANIED BY DCM
AND EMBASSY OFFICER, CALLED ON DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY
SIR THOMAS BRIMELOW OCTOBER 31. THE DISCUSSION WITH
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BRIMELOW, WHO WILL BECOME PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY
AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE NEXT WEEK, CENTERED ON THE EC-US
DRAFT DECLARATION, AND TOUCHED ON THE DRAFT NATO

DECLARATION.

2. BRIMELOW LED OFF BY NOTING THAT SOME US OFFICIALS HAD DEPRECATED EUROPEAN EFFORTS IN PREPARATION OF A DRAFT EC-US DECLARATION. STOESSEL POINTED OUT THAT US WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE REAL CONTENT IN THE DECLARATION, ADDING THAT THE SECRETARY FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE EUROPEANS HAVE BEEN SO SLOW AND WHY THERE IS SO MUCH DEBATE ON WHAT SHOULD BE FAIRLY OBVIOUS POINTS. TO THIS BRIMELOW RESPONDED THAT FINDING THE HIGHEST COMMON FACTOR WAS NOT EASY, AND THAT WITH THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INVOLVED THE COMMON DENOMINATOR WAS NOT LIKELY TO BE VERY HIGH. STOESSEL THOUGHT MANY POINTS HAD BEEN CLARIFIED DURING THE RECENT COPENHAGEN MEETING, AND HE PRAISED OLIVER WRIGHT'S EFFORTS WHICH HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY HELPFUL. THE US DOES NOT EXPECT A WORLD SHAKER IN THE EC-US DECLARATION, STOESSEL OBSERVED, BUT IF THE EC DRAFT CAN BE IMPROVED, ESPECIALLY BY MORE EMPHASIS ON THE CONCEPT OF COMMON INTERESTS, AND IF WE CAN DEVELOP A GOOD NATO DECLARATION, WE MAY HAVE SOMETHING OF VALUE. STOESSEL CONTINUED THAT US HAD ORIGINALLY WANTED ONE COMPREHENSIVE DECLARATION, WHICH WOULD CONTAIN MORE THAN IT NOW APPEARS WE ARE LIKELY TO GET FROM SEPARATE EC-US AND NATO DECLARATIONS. STOESSEL SAID THAT OUR IDEA HAD BEEN THAT A GOOD STATEMENT ON US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS STRESSING POINTS OF COMMON INTEREST, COULD BE USEFUL, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF US PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR COOPERATION WITH EUROPE. IT WAS NOTHING THE US PARTICULARLY NEEDED, BUT IT COULD BE IN THE OVERALL INTEREST. THIS WAS WHY WE HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED AT EUROPEAN REACTIONS AND QUESTIONING OF US MOTIVES.

3. BRIMELOW COMMENTED THAT THE EUROPEANS INITIALLY HAD HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE US ADMINISTRATION WANTED TO

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----- 005815

R 011619Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5245

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
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HASTEN THE PROCESS OF DRAFTING A DECLARATION. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER THE EC NINE WERE UNABLE TO MAKE HASTE. THEIR MACHINERY DOES NOT WORK FAST; IN FACT, THE NINE HAVE VIRTUALLY NO MACHINERY AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MACHINERY IS HIGHLY BUREAUCRATIC. REGARDING TIMING, STOESSEL SAID THAT THE US HAS NO DESIRE TO FORCE THE PACE. WHEN THE PRESIDENT COMES TO EUROPE IS NOT THE CRUCIAL CONSIDERATION. WHAT COUNTS IS SUBSTANCE; THE PROTOCOLARY ASPECTS OF SIGNING THE DOCUMENTS ALSO REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT. BRIMELOW THOUGHT THE FRENCH CLEARLY WERE THE KEY ON THIS.

4. BRIMELOW THOUGHT THAT THE DRAFT FRENCH TEXT OF A NATO DECLARATION WAS A GOOD ONE. STOESSEL SAID THAT
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THE US THOUGHT SO TOO. BUT WE DO HOPE IT CAN BE IMPROVED BY REFERENCE TO MBFR AND BURDENSARING, ALTHOUGH WE REALIZE THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR FRANCE TO GO AS FAR AS THE US WOULD WISH. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A DECLARATION WHICH COULD BE SIGNED BY ALL 15, AND BRIMELOW AGREED.

5. BRIMELOW ENDED THE CONVERSATION BY REMARKING THAT IT WAS A PITY US-EUROPEAN DIFFERENCES OVER THE DRAFT DECLARATION HAD BEEN EXACERBATED BY THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. THE UK, HE STATED, HAD BEEN PLAYING US-EUROPEAN DIFFERENCES ABOUT MIDDLE EAST POLICY QUIETLY IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID CONTRIBUTING TO RECRIMINATIONS.

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To: STATE
ANKARA
ATHENS
BONN
BRUSSELS

COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN
THE HAGUE
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